

# POTATO STOCKS



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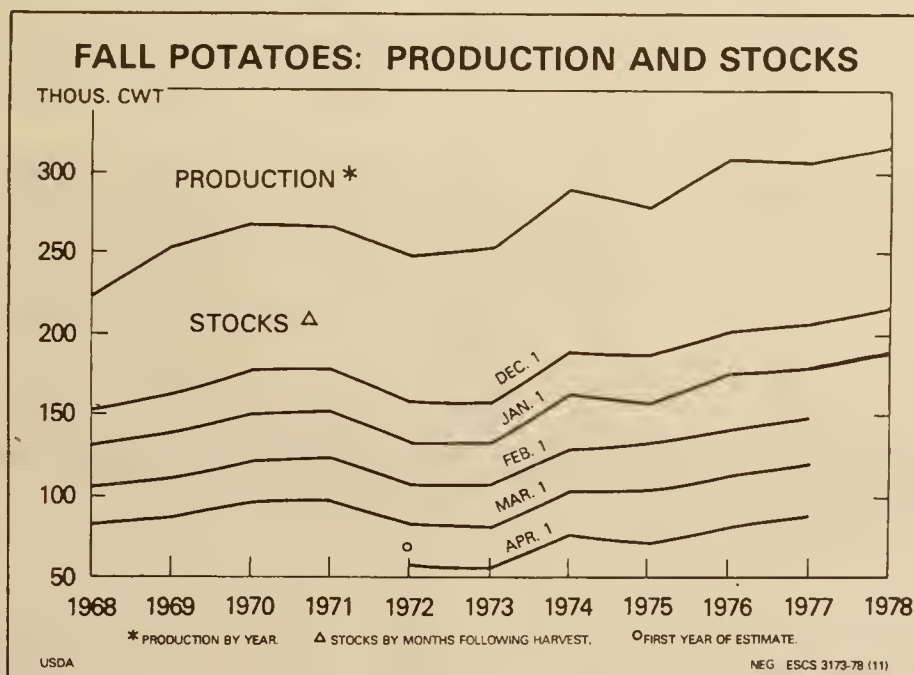
## SEVEN PERCENT MORE POTATO STOCKS ON JANUARY 1, 1979

An estimated 190 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall producing areas on January 1, 1979. This was 7 percent above a year earlier and 9 percent more than 1977.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The seven Eastern States had 26.2 million cwt. in storage, down 9 percent from a year earlier and 3 percent below 1977. This is the lowest stocks in the eastern region since 1974. Disappearance of potatoes in Maine to January 1, 1979 amounted to 8.68 million cwt. which includes potatoes diverted to January 1 for livestock feed under USDA's potato diversion program. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 40.5 million cwt., 8 percent above last year. The eight Western States had 124 million cwt. in storage, up 11 percent from 1978 due mostly to larger holdings in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Disappearance of the 1978 fall crop to January 1, 1979 was 123 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), a decrease of 1 percent from last year. The total disappearance includes 19.6 million cwt. that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and loss due to shrinkage (moisture loss).

The quantity of potatoes processed to January 1, 1979 in the seven major States amounted to 45.6 million cwt., 4 percent less than last year.



NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1968-78 IN THE FALL STATES

YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS				
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR			
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1
1,000 CWT						
1968	234,832	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940	
1969	252,561	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620	
1970	267,827	175,145	150,030	122,230	96,780	
1971 <sup>1/</sup>	266,707	176,390	151,435	124,375	98,485	
1972 <sup>2/</sup>	249,320	158,565	134,420	107,310	83,380	58,250
1973	254,379	157,837	133,665	106,615	81,165	55,870
1974	289,342	187,935	163,095	133,425	104,116	75,905
1975	278,391	185,965	159,140	131,685	104,050	71,640
1976	307,427	201,980	174,775	143,925	114,140	81,875
1977	307,064	206,690	178,205	149,690	120,970	89,215
1978	318,702	218,685	190,480			

<sup>1/</sup> BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y-L I, WIS AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

<sup>2/</sup> APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING <sup>1/</sup>, SEVEN STATES 1977 AND 1978 CROP

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	ENTIRE SEASON
				1,000 CWT			
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1977-78	16,761	22,217	27,360	32,913	39,070	61,261
	1978-79	15,660	21,215				
MAINE <u>2/</u>	1977-78	2,500	3,290	4,185	4,980	5,960	8,040
	1978-79	2,280	2,800				
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1977-78	14,205	17,745	21,620	26,160	30,280	44,460
	1978-79	14,758	18,060				
OTHER STATES <u>3/</u>	1977-78	3,380	4,255	5,405	6,230	7,385	9,855
	1978-79	2,625	3,520				
TOTAL	1977-78	36,846	47,507	58,570	70,283	82,695	123,616
	1978-79	35,323	45,595				

<sup>1/</sup> TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH OR MINN.

<sup>2/</sup> INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY.

<sup>3/</sup> MICH, MINN AND N DAK.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON JANUARY 1, 1978 AND JANUARY 1, 1979

STATE	CROP OF 1977			CROP OF 1978		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS JAN 1, 1978	JAN 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS JAN 1, 1979	JAN 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	5,950	3,200	54	6,055	3,400	56
COLO	9,490	5,650	60	9,750	5,550	57
CONN	466	175		3/	3/	
IDAHO	88,200	61,000	69	96,980	67,500	70
IND	1,128	150	13	936	185	20
MAINE	28,320	20,200	71	26,180	17,500	67
MASS	888	265	30	810	380	47
MICH	8,800	4,400	50	8,670	4,800	55
MINN	12,960	8,600	66	14,910	10,700	72
MONT	2,016	1,820	90	2,088	1,870	90
NEBR	1,440	830	58	1,680	1,100	65
N H 1/	71	50	70			
N Y - L I	7,182	2,200	31	6,175	2,250	36
- UPSTATE	5,356	2,200	41	6,500	2,400	37
N DAK	21,600	13,800	64	22,400	14,700	66
OHIO	2,744	800	29	2,215	700	32
OREG	25,550	14,100	55	28,488	15,400	54
PA	6,375	3,500	55	6,250	3,450	55
R I	943	2/		3/	3/	
S DAK	1,062	705	66	1,190	650	55
UTAH	1,416	720	51	1,127	660	59
VT	235	130	55	3/	3/	
WASH	50,600	24,700	49	50,685	28,800	57
WIS	18,038	8,300	46	17,325	7,700	44
WYO	1,474	710	48	1,360	540	40
OTHER STATES 3/				1,488	245	16
23-STATE TOTAL 4/	302,304	178,205	59	313,262	190,480	61

1/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER 1977 CROP. 2/ R I INCLUDED IN CONN. 3/ CONN, R I, AND VT INCLUDED IN OTHER STATES. 4/ EXCLUDING NEV FOR WHICH NO STOCKS ESTIMATES ARE MADE. NEV 1977 PRODUCTION 4,760,000 CWT. AND 1978 PRODUCTION 5,440,000 CWT.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1979 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the January 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1959-78 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years' preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 1979 potato stocks estimate is 2.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 190 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.2 percent or approximately 4.19 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.8 percent or approximately 7.24 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.3 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.2 and the smallest was 1.4 million hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate each year during the past 10 years.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY  
MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA (RED RIVER VALLEY)

The potato stocks quality information contained in this report is based on a survey conducted by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota. Sample bags of potatoes selected on a random basis were placed in storage at harvest time. Reports are issued each month during the 1978-79 storage season showing the cumulative average grade and weight loss for potatoes at the time of removal from storage. At the request of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, samples were selected only for processing potatoes.

Samples recovered before January 1, 1979 indicate that the quality of the white varieties at harvest and after storage was higher than for the comparable date a year earlier. The decline in No. 1 grade (including B's) for white varieties while in storage was 8 percent (7 points) for samples removed from storage to date. This compares with a 10 percent decline (9 points) during the same period a year earlier.

The percent graded as culls at harvest and after storage for white varieties is below a year ago. Total weight loss while in storage for samples recovered to date is 5 percent.

This report does not include information for Russet potatoes as an insufficient number of samples were recovered by January 1, 1979.

The cooperation of the many potato growers and storage operators who assisted on this project is greatly appreciated.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1978-79  
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

CROP	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S 1/		WEIGHT LOSS
	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	
	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	
	PERCENT								
	SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1979 2/								
WHITE	90	83	7	6	3	11	7	9	5
RUSSET 3/									
	SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1978 2/								
WHITE	86	77	9	11	5	12	5	5	3
RUSSET 3/									
	ALL SAMPLES 1977-78 STORAGE SEASON FINAL 2/								
WHITE	86	72	7	11	7	17	6	7	6
RUSSET	85	69	7	16	8	15	4	5	6

1/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U.S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DO NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA: RED AND WHITE VARIETIES - 1 1/2 - 2 1/4 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES - UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

2/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.

3/ DATA NOT AVAILABLE. INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SAMPLES REMOVED FROM STORAGE PRIOR TO THE REPORT.